

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a system that includes a client system in communication with a server system having a front-end server and one or more back-end servers, wherein the client system requests content that is available on the one or more back-end servers through the front-end server, and wherein the content ~~may include~~ resource identifiers that are specific to a particular communication protocol, a method of mapping a connection between a client system and a front-end server to a connection between a front-end server and a back-end server, the method comprising the front-end server performing:

an act of receiving a request for content from the client system, the request being received in accordance with a first communication protocol, which is a secure protocol;

an act of identifying a particular back-end server where the content is available;

an act of adding protocol information to the request for content, the protocol information identifying the first communication protocol; ~~and~~

an act of sending the request for content to the particular back-end server, the request being sent in accordance with a second communication protocol; and

an act of receiving a response from the particular back-end server in accordance with the second communication protocol, the response including the requested content and one or more resource identifiers that are specific to the first communication protocol, but wherein the back-end server would respond to the request from the front-end server with resource identifiers specific to the second communication protocol if the protocol information was not included in the request.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim ~~2-1~~, further comprising the act of sending the response to the client system in accordance with the first communication protocol.

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 3 wherein the first communication protocol comprises a secure communication protocol, the method further comprising the act of encrypting the content sent to the client system.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim ~~2~~1, wherein the one or more resource identifiers are uniform resource locators.

6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first communication protocol comprises a secure communication protocol and the second communication protocol comprises an insecure communication protocol.

7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6 further comprising the act of decrypting content received from the client system.

8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6 wherein the first communication protocol comprises a secure sockets layer protocol.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the second communication protocol comprises the hypertext transfer protocol, and wherein the protocol information comprises a hypertext transfer protocol header.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein the header is one of a "Via:" and a "User-agent:" header.

11. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the header comprises "Front-End-HTTPS: on".

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9 further comprising a hypertext transfer protocol router at the front-end server performing an act of tracking information associated with the client system's request for content.

13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the request for content comprises a request for one of email content and Web content.

14. (Currently Amended) In a system that includes a client system in communication with a server system having a front-end server and one or more back-end servers, wherein the client system requests content that is available on the one or more back-end servers through the front-end server, and wherein the content may include resource identifiers that are specific to a particular communication protocol, a method of mapping a connection between a client system and a front-end server to a connection between the front-end server and a back-end server, the method comprising the front-end server performing:

a step for communicating with the client system using a first communication protocol, which is a secure protocol, the communicating including a request for content from the client system;

a step for communicating with a particular back-end server using a second communication protocol, the communicating including the request for content from the client system; and

a step for mapping the communication with the client system using the first communication protocol to the communication with the particular back-end server using the second communication protocol, wherein the mapping includes:

-an act of adding protocol information to the request for content that identifies the first communication protocol, and

an act of receiving a response from the particular back-end server in accordance with the second communication protocol, the response including the requested content and one or more resource identifiers that are specific to the first communication protocol, but wherein the back-end server would respond to the request from the front-end server with resource identifiers specific to the second communication protocol if the protocol information was not included in the request.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim ~~15~~14, wherein the one or more resource identifiers are uniform resource locators.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim ~~15~~14, wherein the step for communicating with the client system using a first communication protocol comprises an act of sending the response to the client to the client system.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein the first communication protocol comprises a secure communication protocol and the second communication protocol comprises an insecure communication protocol.

19. (Original) A method as recited in claim 18 wherein the step for mapping the communication with the client system using the first communication protocol to the communication with the particular back-end server using the second communication protocol comprises the acts of:

decrypted content received from the client system;
encrypting content sent to the client system; and
tracking information associated with the client system's request for content.

20. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the second communication protocol comprises the hypertext transfer protocol, and wherein the protocol information comprises a hypertext transfer protocol header.

21. (Original) A method as recited in claim 20 wherein the hypertext transfer protocol header comprises "Front-End-HTTPS: on".

22. (Currently Amended) In a system that includes a client system in communication with a server system, the server system including a front-end server and one or more back-end servers, wherein communication between the client system and the front-end server uses a first communication protocol and wherein communication between the front-end server and the one or more back-end servers uses a second communication protocol, a method of providing content through the front-end server to the client system such that the content complies with the first communication protocol, the method comprising one of the one or more back-end servers performing:

an act of receiving a request for content from the front-end server, the request for content being received in accordance with the second communication protocol, ~~wherein the request for content includes protocol information identifying the first communication protocol;~~

an act of generating the requested content, wherein one or more resource identifiers included in the requested content are specific to the first communication protocol, which is a secure protocol; and

an act of sending the requested content to the front-end server in accordance with the second communication protocol, the response including the requested content and one or more resource identifiers, wherein the resource identifiers are specific to the first communication protocol when the request for content includes protocol information identifying the first communication protocol, and wherein the resource identifiers are specific to the second communication protocol when the protocol information identifying the first communication protocol is not included in the request.

23. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the first communication protocol is a secure communication protocol, and wherein the second communication protocol is an insecure version of the first communication protocol.

24. (Original) A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising the front-end server performing:

an act of decrypting the request for content received from the client system; and
an act of encrypting the requested content being sent to the client system.

25. (Original) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the act of generating the requested content further comprises an act of changing the one or more resource identifiers included in the requested content to correspond with the first communication protocol.

26. (Original) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein the first communication protocol is HTTPS and the second communication protocol is HTTP, wherein the act of changing the one or more resource identifiers further comprises an act of changing an "HTTP" portion of a resource identifier to "HTTPS".

27. (Currently Amended) In a system that includes a client system in communication with a server system having a front-end server and one or more back-end servers, wherein the client system requests content that is available on the one or more back-end servers through the front-end server, and wherein the content may include resource identifiers that are specific to a particular communication protocol, a computer program product for implementing a method of mapping a connection between a client system and a front-end server to a connection between the front-end server and a back-end server, comprising:

a computer readable medium for carrying machine-executable instructions for implementing the method at a front-end server; and

wherein said method is comprised of machine-executable instructions for performing the acts of:

receiving a request for content from the client system, the request being received in accordance with a first communication protocol, which is a secure protocol;

identifying a particular back-end server where the content is available;

adding protocol information to the request for content, the protocol information identifying the first communication protocol; ~~and~~

sending the request for content to the particular back-end server, the request being sent in accordance with a second communication protocol; and

receiving a response from the particular back-end server in accordance with the second communication protocol, the response including the requested content and one or more resource identifiers that are specific to the first communication protocol, but wherein the back-end server would respond to the request from the front-end server with resource identifiers specific to the second communication protocol if the protocol information was not included in the request.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as recited in claim ~~28~~27, the method comprised further of machine-executable instructions for performing the act of sending the response to the client system in accordance with the first communication protocol.

30. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 29 wherein the first communication protocol comprises a secure communication protocol and the second communication protocol comprises an insecure communication protocol, the method being comprised further of machine-executable instructions for performing the acts of:

decrypting content received from the client system; and
encrypting the content sent to the client system.

31. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as recited in claim ~~28~~27, wherein the one or more resource identifiers are uniform resource locators.

32. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 27 wherein the second communication protocol comprises the hypertext transfer protocol, and wherein the protocol information comprises a hypertext transfer protocol header.

33. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 33, the method comprised further of machine-executable instructions for performing the act of using a hypertext transfer protocol router at the front-end server to track information associated with the client system's request for content.

34. (Original) A computer program product as recited in claim 27 wherein the request for content comprises a request for one of email content and Web content.

35. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second communication protocol comprises an insecure version of the first communication protocol

36. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the client system is configured to communicate with the front-end server in both the first and second communication protocols.

37. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more resource identifiers specific to the first and second communication protocols control the protocol that will be used by the client in making an additional request to the front-end server.